CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A method for increasing the manageability of hair having a baseline pH of around 4.0 to 6.0, the method comprising the steps of:

applying an alkaline composition to the hair such that the pH of the hair is elevated above the baseline pH of 4.0 to 6.0;

heating the hair while the alkaline composition is applied to the hair, the alkaline composition having a pH of at least 12;

rinsing the alkaline composition from the hair;

allowing the pH of the hair to return towards the baseline pH of around 4.0 to 6.0 by waiting at least 30 minutes between the rinsing of the hair and the application of an acidic composition to the hair;

applying the acidic composition to the hair such that the pH of the hair is reduced below the baseline pH of 4.0 to 6.0, the acidic composition including an acid component and a surfactant; and

rinsing the hair, the resultant hair having increased manageability.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the alkaline composition is in contact with the hair during the steps of applying the alkaline composition and heating the hair for a duration of at least approximately twenty minutes to approximately forty minutes.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the step of applying the alkaline composition has an associated application time of approximately ten minutes to approximately twenty minutes.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the heating step has an associated heating time of approximately ten minutes to approximately twenty minutes.

5. The method of claim 3, wherein the hair is allowed to return towards the baseline pH of around 4.0 to 6.0 by waiting at least 4 hours between rinsing the hair and the application of the acidic composition.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the hair is allowed to return towards the baseline pH of around 4.0 to 6.0 by waiting at least 24 hours between rinsing the hair and the application of the acidic composition.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the hair is allowed to return towards the baseline pH of around 4.0 to 6.0 by waiting at least 48 hours between rinsing the hair and the application of the acidic composition.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the alkaline composition is selected from the group of guanidine hydroxide, barium hydroxide, lithium hydroxide, sodium hydroxide, and potassium hydroxide.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the acidic composition has a pH of about 2.2.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the acid component is selected from the group of citric, salicylic, acetic, malic, and ascorbic acid and the surfactant is an amphoteric

surfactant selected from the group of Cocamidopropyl Betaine surfactant, Lauramidopropyl Betaine surfactant, Cocoamidopropyl Hydroxysultaine surfactant, Cocoamphoglycinate surfactant, and Lauroamphoglycinate surfactant.

11. The method of claim 3, wherein the alkaline composition is guadinine hydroxide, the acid composition includes about 3 weight percent malic acid and about 10 weight percent Cocamidopropyl Betaine.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the hair is allowed to return towards the baseline pH of around 4.0 to 6.0 by waiting at least 4 hours between rinsing the hair and the application of the acidic composition.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the hair is allowed to return towards the baseline pH of around 4.0 to 6.0 by waiting at least 24 hours between rinsing the hair and the application of the acidic composition.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the hair is allowed to return towards the baseline pH of around 4.0 to 6.0 by waiting at least 48 hours between rinsing the hair and the application of the acidic composition.

15. A hair treatment system for increasing the manageability of the hair, the hair having a baseline pH of about 4.0 to about 6.0, the hair treatment system comprising:

an alkaline composition which raises the pH of the hair above the baseline pH, the first alkaline composition to be applied to the hair and to remain in

contact with the hair throughout an application of heat to the hair and subsequently rinsed from the hair; and

an acidic composition having a pH of about 2.2, the acidic composition to be applied to the hair subsequent to the rinsing of the first alkaline composition and subsequent to a time period of at least 30 minutes such that the pH of the hair returns towards the baseline pH of 4.0 to 6.0 before application of the acidic component.

16. The hair treatment system of claim 15, wherein the wherein the alkaline composition is to be in contact with the hair for a duration of at least approximately twenty minutes to approximately forty minutes.

17. The hair treatment system of claim 16, wherein the application of the alkaline composition has an associated application time of approximately ten minutes to approximately twenty minutes.

18. The hair treatment system of claim 17, wherein heat is to be applied to the hair for an associated heating time of approximately ten minutes to approximately twenty minutes.

19. The hair treatment system of claim 17, wherein the alkaline composition is selected from the group of guanidine hydroxide, barium hydroxide, lithium hydroxide, sodium hydroxide, and potassium hydroxide.

20. The hair treatment system of claim 19, wherein the alkaline composition has a pH of at least 12.

21. The hair treatment system of claim 19, wherein the acidic composition includes an acid component selected from the group of citric, salicylic, acetic, malic, and ascorbic acid and an amphoteric surfactant selected from the group of Cocamidopropyl Betaine surfactant, Lauramidopropyl Betaine surfactant, Cocoamidopropyl Hydroxysultaine surfactant, Cocoamphoglycinate surfactant, and Lauroamphoglycinate surfactant.

22. The hair treatment system of claim 20, wherein the acidic composition includes about 3 weight percent to about 8 weight percent of the acid component.

23. The hair treatment system of claim 22, wherein the acidic composition includes about 3.0 weight percent of malic acid and about 10.0 weight percent of Cocamidopropyl Betaine.

24. The hair treatment system of claim 15, further comprising a thermal conditioning composition configured to add moisture to the hair and to be applied to the hair between the alkaline composition and the acidic composition, the thermal conditioning composition including a cationic agent and proteins.

25. The hair treatment system of claim 24, further comprising a neutralizing shampoo to applied subsequent to the alkaline composition and prior to the thermal conditioning treatment.

26. The hair treatment system of claim 16, wherein the hair is allowed to return towards the baseline pH of around 4.0 to 6.0 by waiting at least 4 hours between rinsing the hair and the application of the acidic composition.

27. The hair treatment system of claim 26, wherein the hair is allowed to return towards the baseline pH of around 4.0 to 6.0 by waiting at least 24 hours between rinsing the hair and the application of the acidic composition.

28. The hair treatment system of claim 27, wherein the hair is allowed to return towards the baseline pH of around 4.0 to 6.0 by waiting at least 48 hours between rinsing the hair and the application of the acidic composition.

29. A hair treatment system for increasing the manageability of the hair the hair treatment system comprising:

a hydroxide composition to be applied to the hair and to remain in contact with the hair throughout an application of heat to the hair and subsequently rinsed from the hair, the hydroxide composition remaining in contact with the hair for a duration of at least approximately twenty minutes to approximately forty minutes; and

an acidic composition having a pH of about 2.2 to be applied to the hair at least 30 minutes subsequent to rinsing the hydroxide composition from the hair, the acidic composition including an acid component selected from the group of citric, salicylic, acetic, malic, and ascorbic acid and an amphoteric surfactant selected from the group of Cocamidopropyl Betaine surfactant, Lauramidopropyl Betaine surfactant, Cocoamidopropyl Hydroxysultaine surfactant, Cocoamphoglycinate surfactant, and Lauroamphoglycinate surfactant.

30. The hair treatment system of clam 29, wherein the acidic composition includes about 3.0 weight percent of the acid component to about 8.0 weight percent of the acid component.

31. The hair treatment system of claim 30, wherein the hydroxide composition is a guanidine hydroxide composition formed by the mixing of a calcium hydroxide composition and a guanidine carbonate composition.

32. The hair treatment system of claim 31, wherein the acidic component is applied to the hair at least 4 hours subsequent to rinsing the hydroxide composition from the hair.

33. The hair treatment system of claim 32, wherein the acidic component is applied to the hair at least 24 hours subsequent to rinsing the hydroxide composition from the hair

34. The hair treatment system of claim 33, wherein the acidic component is applied to the hair at least 48 hours subsequent to rinsing the hydroxide composition from the hair.